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ROUND TABLE OF THE LIBRARIES OF RELIGION AND THEOLOGY

The Round Table of the Libraries of Religion and Theology was held Wednesday evening, July 3, with an attendance of about twenty-five.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Charles R. Robinson of the Philadelphia Divinity School. A nominating committee consisting of Mr. Glen B. Ewell of Rochester, Miss Edith Clark of the Bible Teachers' Training School, New York City, and Mrs. C. E. Moody of the Day Missions Library at Yale University, was appointed by the president.

The first paper was read by Miss Hollis W. Hering, of the Missionary Research Library, New York City, on "The war and the mission field."

This paper reviewed the effects of the world conflict which "has set the uttermost parts of the earth vibrating," as it bore upon the mission fields. In spite of insuperable difficulties, many of the mission fields themselves being battle ground, on the whole the missions have held their own splendidly, while the war has forced rapid development in three very distinct directions: A tremendous impetus has been given to the development of native races which has hastened by many years the movement towards "devolution" in native churches; the Moslem field has been cleared by the complete collapse of the idea of the political unity of Islam; and everywhere the bonds of caste and race prejudice are giving way. In touching upon the various unique missionary openings due to the war, attention was drawn to the work in the various Native Labour Contingents now in France. In closing, Miss Hering mentioned the serious effect of the war on the size and frequency of publication of the missionary publications.

A paper prepared by Dr. Charles R. Gillett, who is in charge of the McAlpin collection, in the library of Union Theological Seminary, was read by Miss Julia Pettee.

The collection now numbers over 15,000 titles, ranging from the Elizabethan period, which is fairly well represented, through the Commonwealth period, which is quite full, and the controversial writings of the

Restoration to the end of the seventeenth century. Though the collection is theological in its aim, history and politics are so closely interwoven that no close lines of demarcation can be drawn, and it forms an important depository of source material for the history of the period. The plan of the catalog includes the copying of the entire title page, with vertical line endings, and giving full bibliographical details, so that the exact identification of the numerous editions through which many of the writings have passed, and of the various separate parts of which many of the composite volumes consist, is possible. It is the design of the compiler, Dr. Gillett, to make the catalog not only a list of books but an adequate bibliographical tool for scholars.

After Dr. Gillett's paper, the subject of an evaluated list of denominational periodicals was taken up. Dr. Robinson thought there was considerable demand for such a list to aid the libraries of limited funds in the selection of these periodicals. Dr. H. P. Smith of Union Theological Seminary had furnished a list of those currently received at that institution, upon which Dr. Robinson commented.

The last paper, "On the exchange of duplicates," by Samuel G. Ayres of Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, was read by Mr. Ewell.

Mr. Ayres arranges his duplicates alphabetically, lists them, and sends out carbon copies to other libraries. He makes it a principle that any library desiring a book on the list shall have it whether he receives its value in exchange or not. He also advises exchanging with dealers. Of the residue of unexchangeable books, selections are sent to needy institutions in the south or perhaps to some minister. He has distributed 5,000 volumes, besides hundreds of magazines and pamphlets in this way during the last six years.

Mr. Collar, Mr. Oko, Miss Krum, Mr. Ewell, Professor Root and Mr. Keogh spoke in the discussion following this paper. There seemed to be a consensus of opinion

that the thing to do was to bestow the book where wanted, regardless of its exchange value.

The Nominating Committee reported Prof. A. S. Root, librarian of Oberlin College Library, for president and Miss Hollis

W. Hering, Missionary Research Library, New York City, for secretary. These officers were elected and the meeting was then adjourned.

JULIA PETTEE,
Secretary.

ROUND TABLE OF TRAINING CLASS TEACHERS

The conference of training class teachers, arranged for by the committee on library training, was held on the evening of July 3. About seventy-five persons were present.

The following papers were read:

1. What should be the standard of admission to a training class? Marie Newberry, New York Public Library.
2. How long should the course be? How much time per week should be given to practice and how much to study? Should the practice be paid for? Lucy Morgan, Detroit Public Library.
3. What subjects should be taught in the course? Adah F. Whitcomb, Chicago Public Library.
4. In what way and how soon after the beginning of the course should unde-

sirables be eliminated? Clara W. Herbert, Public Library of the District of Columbia, Washington, D. C.

5. When the course is completed and students are ready for work, what salary should be offered? Ernestine Rose, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh.

Each paper was followed by a general discussion in which an unusually large number of persons participated. So successful was the meeting that it was voted unanimously to arrange for a similar session at the next A. L. A. Conference. Miss Ernestine Rose was elected chairman and Miss Adah F. Whitcomb secretary.

AZARIAH F. ROOT,
Chairman.

EXHIBITS

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A number of good exhibits were shown to excellent advantage in the hotel parlors. Largest in point of size was that showing the work of the camp libraries and the library war service in general. Besides photographs from all camps from the Atlantic to the Pacific, there was shown a model of a camp library building of the Camp Kearny type, with reading porch along the side. There was also much interest in a book wagon for hospital use made and donated by the pupils of the Youngstown High School. The Food Administration had a large exhibit, with material changed at frequent intervals. Here

were shown files of the numerous series of bulletins issued in coöperation with other government departments; maps, recipes, posters, photographs, and graphic exhibits suitable for small libraries; files of reports from library directors; corn, wheat and food exhibits; and sample maps from the Statistical Division and from Boston schools. On Wednesday photographs of library publicity along food conservation lines were shown, and on Thursday, posters from schools of different states. There were the usual exhibits of books by dealers, and the Dayton Library and Gaylord Brothers showed scrapbooks made for hospital use.